IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 6, 14, and 10 without admission and without prejudice.

Clean version of each replacement claim

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims of the same numbers:

1. (Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing system, the network computing system comprising a plurality of groups of network devices storing data, the backup and retrieval system comprising:

at least two backup cells each comprising:

a backup device executing a backup of the data stored on at least one of the plurality of groups of network devices;

a management component, communicatively coupled to the at least one backup device, controlling the backup of the data to the backup device; and

each of the plurality of backup cells communicatively coupled to at least one other of the plurality of backup cells, and each of the plurality of backup cells adaptable to be controlled by a management component in another of the plurality of backup cells.

4. (Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing system, the network computing system comprising a first group of network devices storing data, the backup and retrieval system comprising:

2

a first backup cell comprising:

at least one backup device executing a backup of the data stored on

the first group of network devices;

a first manager component, communicatively coupled to the at

least one backup device, controlling the backup of the data to the at least one

backup device;

a second backup cell communicatively coupled to the first backup cell, the

second backup cell comprising:

a second manager component; and

the second manager component directly controlling the backup of

the data to the at least one backup device.

10. (Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing

system, the network computing system comprising a first group of network devices

containing data, the network computing system further comprising a first network device,

the backup and retrieval system comprising:

at least one backup device executing backup functions for the data

contained on the first group of network devices;

a first manager component executing on the first network device,

communicatively coupled to the at least one backup device, controlling the backup of the

data to the at least one backup device; and

3

a second manager component, communicatively coupled to the first

network device, the second manager component directly controlling the backup of the

data to the at least one backup device.

16. (Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing

system, the network computing system comprising a first group of network devices

containing data, the backup and retrieval system comprising:

at least one backup device executing backup functions for the data

contained on the first group of network devices;

a first network device, communicatively coupled to the at least one backup

device, controlling the backup of the data contained on the first group of network devices

to the at least one backup device; and

a second network device, communicatively coupled to the first network

device, the second network device directly controlling the backup of the data to the at

least one backup device.

<u>Version with markings to show changes made</u>

1. (Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing

system, the network computing system comprising a plurality of groups of network

devices storing data, the backup and retrieval system comprising:

[a plurality of] <u>at least two</u> backup cells <u>each</u> comprising:

a backup device executing a backup of the data stored on at least one of

the plurality of groups of network devices;

4

a management component, communicatively coupled to the at least one

backup device, controlling the backup of the data to the backup device; and

each of the plurality of backup cells communicatively coupled to at least

one other of the plurality of backup cells, and each of the plurality of backup cells

adaptable to be controlled by a management component in another of the plurality of

backup cells.

4. (Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing

system, the network computing system comprising a first group of network devices

storing data, the backup and retrieval system comprising:

a first backup cell comprising:

at least one backup device executing a backup of the data stored on

the first group of network devices;

a first manager component, communicatively coupled to the at

least one backup device, controlling the backup of the data to the at least one

backup device;

a second backup cell communicatively coupled to the first backup cell, the

second backup cell comprising:

a second manager component; and

the second manager component directly controlling the backup of

the data to the at least one backup device.

5

10. (Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing

system, the network computing system comprising a first group of network devices

containing data, the network computing system further comprising a first network device,

the backup and retrieval system comprising:

at least one backup device executing backup functions for the data

contained on the first group of network devices;

a first manager component executing on the first network device,

communicatively coupled to the at least one backup device, controlling the backup of the

data to the at least one backup device; and

a second manager component, communicatively coupled to the first

network device, the second manager component directly controlling the backup of the

data to the at least one backup device.

16. (Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing

system, the network computing system comprising a first group of network devices

containing data, the backup and retrieval system comprising:

at least one backup device executing backup functions for the data

contained on the first group of network devices;

a first network device, communicatively coupled to the at least one backup

device, controlling the backup of the data contained on the first group of network devices

to the at least one backup device; and

6